

**WASHINGTON COMMERCE CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE**

**BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
June 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

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**PURPOSE:**

Present a progress report on the Washington State Commerce Corridor Study.

**ACTION/OUTCOME:**

Provide comments and feedback to the Study Consultant on the direction and focus of the study to date.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the State 2003-2005 Transportation Budget, The Washington State Legislature appropriated \$500,000 for a feasibility Study of a Washington State “Commerce Corridor”. The corridor starts in the vicinity of Lewis County and extends northerly to the vicinity of the Canadian border and contains Interstate 5, the mainline railroads, and major intercity pipeline facilities, which each operate on separate rights-of-way but roughly in the vicinity of Interstate 5. It runs through the Seattle/Everett/Tacoma metropolitan area, and serves intercity, metropolitan, and local transportation demands. The corridor is not only envisioned as a possible alternative passenger and truck transportation route to the present I-5, but one that might be financed by tolls and could also be used by rail and utilities. The legislature wants to assess the probable participation of the private sector in the development, design, financing, construction and operation of such a facility.

**DISCUSSION:**

- The study is conceptual only. No immediately implementable project or projects are expected from this study. Study timeframe will focus on twenty to fifty year future need.
- A major study driver is the need for replacement pipeline corridors for natural gas and petroleum, power transmission, and possible freight, passenger and piggyback truck rail service, and truck and passenger toll road need.
- Two “Advisory Forums” for stakeholder briefing and information are scheduled for mid-July and late October.

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